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**[ABSTRACT]**

A method of making a heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor is disclosed which comprises the steps of

- 5 (i) providing a web of a lithographic support having a hydrophilic surface;
- (ii) applying on the hydrophilic surface of the web a coating comprising a phenolic resin;
- (iii) drying the coating;
- 10 (iv) a heating step wherein the web temperature is maintained above the glass transition temperature of the phenolic resin  $T_g$  during a period of between 0.1 and 60 seconds;
- (v) a cooling step wherein the web temperature is reduced at an average cooling rate which is higher than if the web would be
- 15 kept under ambient conditions but not higher than  $30^\circ\text{C/s}$ ;
- (vi) winding the precursor on a core or cutting the precursor into sheets.

The heating and the cooling step provide a significant improvement of the aging behavior of the precursor. A stable sensitivity is

20 obtained shortly after coating.

**[Fig.1]**